

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~An expression~~ Expression system, characterized in that it ~~comprises comprising~~ successively, in the 5'-3' direction:
 - ; ~~a nucleotide sequence encoding a soluble protein;~~
 - a nucleotide sequence encoding the dipeptide Asp-Pro; and
 - a nucleotide sequence encoding a toxic membrane protein or a transmembrane domain of a the toxic membrane protein.
2. (Currently Amended) ~~The expression~~ Expression system according to Claim 1, in ~~which~~ wherein the toxic membrane protein is ~~a membrane protein or a domain of a membrane protein of a viral~~ an envelope protein of a virus.
3. (Currently Amended) ~~The expression~~ Expression system according to Claim 2, in ~~which~~ wherein the virus is ~~chosen~~ selected from the group consisting of hepatitis C virus, the AIDS virus, a virus that is pathogenic for humans, and a virus that is pathogenic for a mammal.
4. (Currently Amended) ~~The expression~~ Expression system according to Claim 1, in ~~which~~ wherein the toxic membrane protein is ~~a transmembrane protein or a domain of a transmembrane protein of the hepatitis C virus~~.
5. (Currently Amended) ~~Expression~~ The expression system according to Claim 1, in ~~which~~ wherein the toxic membrane protein is ~~a protein of sequence ID No. 1 or ID No. 2 of the attached sequence listing~~ comprises SEQ ID NO: 1 or SEQ ID NO: 2.
6. (Currently Amended) ~~Expression~~ The expression system according to Claim 1, in ~~which~~ wherein the nucleotide sequence encoding the toxic membrane protein ~~is chosen from the~~

~~sequence ID No. 3 and the sequence ID No. 4 of the attached sequence listing comprises SEQ ID NO: 3 or SEQ ID NO: 4.~~

7. (Currently Amended) ~~Expression~~The expression system according to Claim 6, ~~in which~~wherein the nucleotide sequence encoding the dipeptide Asp-Pro is gacccg.

8. (Canceled).

9. (Currently Amended) ~~Expression~~The expression system according to ~~Claim 8~~Claim 1, ~~in which~~wherein the soluble protein is glutathione S-transferase or thioredoxin.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~Expression~~The expression system according to Claim 1, ~~encoding~~wherein the expression system encodes a fusion protein having comprising a sequence chosen~~selected~~ from the group consisting of the sequences ID No. 46, ID No. 47, ID No. 48, ID No. 49, ID No. 50 and ID No. 51 of the attached sequence listing SEQ ID NOS: 46-51.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~Expression~~The expression system according to Claim 8, ~~said the expression system having comprising a sequence chosen~~selected from the group consisting of the sequences ID No. 34, ID No. 35, ID No. 36, ID No. 37, ID No. 38 and ID No. 39 of the attached sequence listing SEQ ID NOS: 34-39.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~Bacterial~~A bacterial expression vector comprising ~~an the~~ expression system according to Claim 1; cloned into a plasmid.

13. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) ~~Bacterial~~A bacterial expression vector comprising ~~an the~~ expression system according to Claim 1 and the oligonucleotide sequence of the pT7-7 plasmid.

14. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) ~~Bacterial~~A bacterial expression vector ~~consisting of comprising the sequence ID No. 44 or ID No. 45 of the attached sequence listing~~SEQ ID NO: 44 or SEQ ID NO: 45.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~Bacterial~~A bacterial expression vector comprising ~~an~~the expression system according to Claim 1 and the oligonucleotide sequence of a plasmid ~~chosen~~selected from ~~the group consisting of~~ pGEXKT and pET32a.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~The bacterial~~The bacterial expression vector according to Claim 15, ~~consisting of~~wherein the bacterial expression vector comprises a sequence ~~chosen~~selected from the group consisting of the sequences ID No. 40, ID No. 41, ID No. 42 and ID No. 43 of the ~~attached sequence listing~~ SEQ ID NOS: 40-43.

17. (Currently Amended) ~~Prokaryotic~~A prokaryotic cell transformed with ~~an~~the expression vector according to Claim 12.

18. (Currently Amended) The prokaryotic cell according to Claim 17, wherein the prokaryotic cell is an *E. coli* ~~prokaryotic cell according to Claim 17~~.

19. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~A method for producing a toxic membrane protein or a transmembrane domain of the toxic membrane protein by genetic recombination, comprising the following steps:

- transforming a host cell with ~~an~~the expression system according to Claim 1,
- culturing the transformed host cell under culture conditions such that it produces a fusion protein comprising the dipeptide Asp-Pro followed by the peptide sequence of the toxic membrane protein or the transmembrane domain of the toxic membrane protein from ~~said~~the expression vector, and
- isolating ~~said~~the fusion protein.

20. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~The method according to Claim 19, ~~also comprising~~wherein the method further comprises the following -a step:

~~consisting in~~cleaving saidthe fusion protein so as to recover the toxic membrane protein or the transmembrane domain of the toxic membrane protein.

21. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~The method according to Claim 20, ~~in which~~wherein the step ~~consisting in~~of cleaving ~~said~~the fusion protein so as to recover the toxic membrane protein

or the transmembrane domain of the toxic membrane protein is carried out by reacting formic acid on the fusion protein with formic acid.

22. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to Claim 19, ~~in which~~ wherein the host cell is an *E. coli* cell.

23. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to Claim 19, ~~in which~~ wherein the expression system encodes a fusion protein having a sequence ~~ehosenselected~~ selected from the group consisting of the sequences ID No. 46, ID No. 47, ID No. 48, ID No. 49, ID No. 50 and ID No. 51 of the attached sequence listing SEQ ID NOS: 46-51.

24. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to Claim 19, ~~in which~~ wherein the expression system ~~has~~ comprises a sequence ~~ehosenselected~~ selected from the group consisting of the sequences ID No. 34, ID No. 35, ID No. 36, ID No. 37, ID No. 38 and ID No. 39 of the attached sequence listing SEQ ID NOS: 34-39.

25. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to Claim 19, ~~in which~~ wherein the expression vector ~~consists~~ comprises of a sequence ~~ehosenselected~~ selected from the group consisting of the sequences ID No. 40, ID No. 41, ID No. 42, ID No. 43, ID No. 44 and ID No. 45 of the attached sequence listing SEQ ID NOS: 40-45.

26. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) ~~Fusion~~ A fusion protein having ~~comprising~~ comprising a peptide sequence ~~ehosenselected~~ selected from the group consisting of the sequences ID No. 46, ID No. 47, ID No. 48, ID No. 49, ID No. 50 and ID No. 51 of the attached sequence listing SEQ ID NOS: 46-51.